

CLAIM OF BENEFIT TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/527,443, filed on December 4, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference. This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/215,563, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Routing Nets in an Integrated Circuit Layout", filed on August 9, 2002; U.S. Patent Application No. 10/215,896, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Producing Multi-Layer Topological Routes", filed on August 9, 2002; U.S. Patent Application No. 10/229,202, entitled "Layouts With Routes With Different Widths in Different Directions on the Same Layer, and Method and Apparatus for Generating Such Layouts", filed on August 26, 2002, and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/229,170, entitled "Layouts With Routes With Different Spacings in Different Directions on the Same Layer, and Method and Apparatus for Generating Such Layouts", filed on August 26, 2002.--

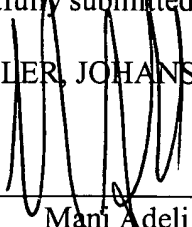
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the claim of benefit of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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